

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method, including steps of
 at a first device coupled to a communication link, generating at least one first
 message to a set of second devices coupled to said communication link, said one first message
 being disposed so that its receipt at said set of second devices causes said set of second devices to
 generate ~~at least one~~ or more second ~~messages~~ message in response thereto;

A² monitoring a number receipt of ~~at least one~~ said second messages received
~~message~~ at said first device;

Sub B1 determining whether or not a protocol mismatch exists between said first device
 and any of said set of second devices, in response to said number of said second messages a
~~result of said step of monitoring.~~

2. (Original) A method as in claim 1, including steps of
 at said first device, adjusting protocol parameters to match all of said second
 devices.

3. (Currently Amended) A method ~~as in claim 1~~, including steps of
at a first device coupled to a communication link, generating at least one first

message to a set of second devices coupled to said communication link, said one first message being disposed so that its receipt at said set of second devices causes said set of second devices to generate one or more second messages in response thereto;

monitoring receipt of said second messages at said first device;

at said first device, generating at least one third ~~one-third~~ message to said set of second devices, said one third message being generated in an attempt to interfere ~~disposed so that it interferes~~ with communication on said communication link when said communication link is configured as half-duplex; and

determining whether or not a protocol mismatch exists between said first device and any of said set of second devices in response to whether or not said attempt to interfere succeeds.

4. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 1, wherein at least one of said first device and ~~at least one of~~ said set of second devices includes an end-host or a switch.

5. (Original) A method as in claim 1, wherein said communication link includes an Ethernet.

6. (Original) A method as in claim 1, wherein said protocol mismatch relates to configuration of said communication link as half-duplex or full-duplex.

A²
7. (Cancelled)

8. (New) A device, comprising:

a communication link to a set of second devices;

a processor that executes instructions; and

A³
a memory storing the instructions including the steps of (a) generating at least one first message to said set of second devices coupled to said communication link, said one first message being disposed so that its receipt at said set of second devices causes said set of second devices to generate one or more second messages in response thereto, (b) monitoring a number of said second messages received at said device, and (c) determining whether or not a protocol mismatch exists between said device and any of said set of second devices, in response to said number of said second messages.

Sub
B1
9. (New) A device as in claim 8, wherein the instructions further include the step of adjusting protocol parameters to match all of said second devices.

10. (New) A device as in claim 8, wherein at least one of said device and said set of second devices includes an end-host or a switch.

11. (New) A device as in claim 8, wherein said communication link includes an Ethernet.

12. (New) A device as in claim 8, wherein said protocol mismatch relates to configuration of said communication link as half-duplex or full-duplex.

13. (New) A device, comprising:

a communication link to a set of second devices;

a processor that executes instructions; and

a memory storing the instructions including the steps of (a) generating at least one

first message to said set of second devices coupled to said communication link, said one first message being disposed so that its receipt at said set of second devices causes said set of second devices to generate one or more second messages, (b) monitoring receipt of said second messages, (c) generating at least one third message to said set of second devices, said one third message being generated in an attempt to interfere with communication on said communication link when said communication link is configured as half-duplex, and (d) determining whether or not a protocol mismatch exists between said first device and any of said set of second devices in response to whether or not said attempt to interfere succeeds.